

Remarks

The Applicants acknowledge the provisional double patenting rejection of Claims 1-2 and 7-8. Inasmuch as this is a provisional rejection, the Applicants respectfully request that further treatment of the rejection be held in abeyance.

The Applicants have added new Claim 12 which is essentially the same as original Claim 3. Entry into the official file is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite that the resulting crystallite layer is provided with a benzotriazole corrosion layer. This subject matter may be found in original Claim 9. Claim 9 has accordingly been amended to account for the change to Claim 1. Entry into the official file is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1-2 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the hypothetical combination of Itoh with Bittihn. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's helpful and very detailed comments as to the applicability of those two references to Claims 1-2 and 7-10.

The Applicants respectfully submit that both of Itoh and Bittihn are inapplicable to those Claims, whether taken individually or collectively. In that regard, the Applicants have carefully studied the disclosure of both Itoh and Bittihn and respectfully submit that both references utterly fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed feature of the crystallite layer being provided with a benzotriazole corrosion layer. Those disclosures are simply completely devoid of any such disclosure. Accordingly, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to hypothetically combine both references, the resulting structure would still fail to teach or suggest a resulting crystallite layer provided with a benzotriazole corrosion layer. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1-2 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the hypothetical combination of Maxfield with Bittihn. The Applicants respectfully submit that neither reference is applicable, whether taken individually or collectively.

The Applicants have already addressed the fact that Bittihn fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed aspect wherein the resulting crystallite layer is provided with a benzotriazole corrosion layer. The Applicants respectfully submit that careful scrutiny of Maxfield reveals that it, too, fails to disclose, teach or suggest the resulting crystallite layer being provided with a benzotriazole corrosion layer. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine Maxfield with Bittihn, that the resulting galvanic element would still fail to teach or suggest the resulting crystallite layer provided with a benzotriazole corrosion layer.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the further hypothetical combination of Nakanishi with Maxfield and Bittihn on the one hand and Itoh and Bittihn on the other hand. As noted above, all of Maxfield, Bittihn and Itoh fail to teach or suggest the resulting crystallite layer provided with a benzotriazole corrosion layer. Nakanishi fails to provide additional teachings or suggestions that would cure this deficiency. The Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the combination of Nakanishi with the secondary and primary references would still fail to teach or suggest the invention as recited in Claims 4-6 and 11. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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